

CHAPTER 326
LICENSURE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

[Prior to 8/7/02, see 645—325.2(148C) to 645—325.5(148C) and 645—325.16(148C)]

645—326.1(148C) Definitions.

“Approved program” means a program for the education of physician assistants which has been accredited by the American Medical Association’s Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation, by its successor, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, or by its successor, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, or its successor.

“Board” means the board of physician assistant examiners.

“CME” means continuing medical education.

“Department” means the department of public health.

“Direction” means authoritative policy or procedural guidance for the accomplishment of a function or activity.

“Licensee” means a person licensed by the board as a physician assistant to provide medical services under the supervision of one or more physicians.

“Locum tenens” means the temporary substitution of one licensed physician assistant for another.

“Mandatory training” means training on identifying and reporting child abuse or dependent adult abuse required of physician assistants who are mandatory reporters. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of child abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 232.69. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of dependent adult abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 235B.16.

“NCCPA” means the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

“Physician” means a person who is currently licensed in Iowa to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy. A physician supervising a physician assistant practicing in a federal facility or under federal authority shall not be required to obtain licensure beyond licensure requirements mandated by the federal government for supervising physicians.

“Physician assistant” means a person licensed as a physician assistant by the board.

“Remote medical site” means a medical clinic for ambulatory patients which is away from the main practice location of a supervising physician and in which a supervising physician is present less than 50 percent of the time the site is open. “Remote medical site” will not apply to nursing homes, patient homes, hospital outpatient departments or any location at which medical care is incidentally provided (e.g., diet center, free clinic, site for athletic physicals, jail facility).

“Supervising physician” means a physician who supervises the medical services provided by the physician assistant and who accepts ultimate responsibility for the medical care provided by the physician/physician assistant team.

“Supervision” means that a supervising physician retains ultimate responsibility for patient care, although a physician need not be physically present at each activity of the physician assistant or be specifically consulted before each delegated task is performed. Supervision shall not be construed as requiring the personal presence of a supervising physician at the place where such services are rendered except insofar as the personal presence is expressly required by these rules or by Iowa Code chapter 148C.

“Supply prescription drugs” means to deliver to a patient or the patient’s representative a quantity of prescription drugs or devices that are properly packaged and labeled.

645—326.2(148C) Requirements for licensure.

326.2(1) The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

a. An applicant shall complete a board-approved application packet. Application forms may be obtained from the board's Web site (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>) or directly from the board office. All applications shall be sent to the Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

b. An applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application.

c. Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Iowa Board of Physician Assistant Examiners. The fees are nonrefundable.

d. Each applicant shall provide official copies of academic transcripts that have been sent to the board directly from an approved program for the education of physician assistants. EXCEPTION: An applicant who is not a graduate of an approved program but who passed the NCCPA initial certification examination prior to 1986 is exempt from the graduation requirement.

e. An applicant shall provide a copy of the initial certification from NCCPA, or its successor agency, sent directly to the board from the NCCPA, or its successor agency.

f. Prior to beginning practice, the physician assistant shall notify the board of the identity of the supervising physician(s) on the board-approved form.

326.2(2) Licensees who were issued their licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

326.2(3) Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be:

- a.* Considered invalid and shall be destroyed; or
- b.* Maintained upon written request of the candidate.

645—326.3(148C) Temporary licensure.

326.3(1) A temporary license may be issued for an applicant who has not taken the NCCPA initial certification examination or successor agency examination or is waiting for the results of the examination.

326.3(2) The applicant must comply with subrule 326.2(1), with the exception of paragraph “e.”

326.3(3) A temporary license shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.

326.3(4) The temporary license shall be renewed only once upon the applicant's showing proof that, through no fault of the applicant, the applicant was unable to take the certification examination recognized by the board. Proof of inability to take the certification examination shall be submitted to the board office with written request for renewal of a temporary license, accompanied by the temporary license renewal fee.

326.3(5) If the temporary licensee fails the certification examination, the temporary licensee must cease practice immediately and surrender the temporary license by the next business day.

326.3(6) There is no additional fee for converting temporary licensure to permanent licensure.

645—326.4(148C) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been licensed under the laws of another jurisdiction shall file an application for licensure by endorsement. An applicant shall:

326.4(1) Submit to the board a completed application according to the instructions on the application.

326.4(2) Pay the nonrefundable licensure fee.

326.4(3) Provide an official copy of the transcript sent directly to the board from an approved program for the education of physician assistants or qualify for the exception stated in paragraph 326.2(1)“d.”

326.4(4) Provide a copy of the initial certification from NCCPA, or its successor agency, sent directly to the board from the NCCPA, or its successor agency. Additionally, provide one of the following documents:

- a.* Copy of current certification from the NCCPA, or its successor agency, sent directly to the board from the NCCPA, or its successor agency; or
- b.* Proof of completion of 100 CME hours for each biennium since initial certification.

326.4(5) Provide verification of license(s) from every state of the United States and from the District of Columbia in which the applicant has practiced, which shall be sent directly from the state(s) to the board office.

326.4(6) Prior to beginning practice, the physician assistant shall notify the board of the identity of the supervising physician(s) on the board-approved form.

645—326.5(148C) Licensure by reciprocal agreement. The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with the District of Columbia or any state, territory, province or foreign country with equal or similar requirements for licensure of physician assistants.

645—326.6(148C) Examination requirements. The applicant for licensure as a physician assistant shall successfully pass the certifying examination for physician assistants conducted by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or a successor examination approved by the board.

645—326.7(148C) Educational qualifications. An applicant for licensure as a physician assistant shall submit official copies of academic transcripts from an approved program for education of physician assistants, or the applicant shall qualify for the exception stated in paragraph 326.2(1) “d.”

645—326.8(148C) Supervision requirements.

326.8(1) Notification requirements. Physician assistants shall use the board-approved forms to notify the board of the identity of their supervising physicians at the following times:

- a.* Prior to beginning practice in Iowa.
- b.* Within 90 days of any change in supervisory relationship or change in supervisory physicians.
- c.* At the time of license renewal. The physician assistant shall provide the identity of the current supervising physician(s) and of the supervising physician(s) who has provided supervision during the physician assistant’s current biennium.

326.8(2) The physician assistant shall maintain documentation of current supervising physicians, which shall be made available to the board upon request.

326.8(3) A physician assistant who provides medical services shall be supervised by one or more physicians; but a physician shall not supervise more than two physician assistants at the same time.

326.8(4) It shall be the responsibility of the physician assistant with a supervising physician to ensure that the physician assistant is adequately supervised.

a. Patient care provided by the physician assistant shall be reviewed with a supervising physician on an ongoing basis as indicated by the clinical condition of the patient. Although every chart need not be signed nor every visit reviewed, nor does the supervising physician need to be physically present at each activity of the physician assistant, it is the responsibility of the supervising physician and physician assistant to ensure that each patient has received the appropriate medical care.

b. Patient care provided by the physician assistant may be reviewed with a supervising physician in person, by telephone or by other telecommunicative means.

c. When signatures are required, electronic signatures are allowed if:

(1) The signature is transcribed by the signer into an electronic record and is not the result of electronic regeneration; and

(2) A mechanism exists allowing confirmation of the signature and protection from unauthorized reproduction.

d. If the physician assistant is being trained to perform new medical procedures, the training may be carried out only under the direct, personal supervision of a supervising physician or another qualified individual.

645—326.9(148C) License renewal.

326.9(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice as a physician assistant shall begin on October 1 and end on September 30. The licensee shall meet the continuing education requirements of 645—Chapter 328 at the time of license renewal.

326.9(2) A renewal of license application and continuing education report form to practice as a physician assistant shall be mailed to the licensee at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. Failure to receive the renewal application shall not relieve the licensee of the obligation to pay biennial renewal fees on or before the renewal date.

a. The licensee shall submit the completed application, continuing education report form or copy of current certification, and renewal fee to the board office before the license expiration date. If the licensee is currently practicing as a physician assistant, a list of supervising physicians shall be submitted with the renewal documents.

b. A licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph “*f.*”

c. A licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats dependent adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph “*f.*”

d. A licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats both dependent adults and children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of training in abuse identification and reporting for dependent adults and children in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph “*f.*”

Training may be completed through separate courses as identified in paragraphs “*b*” and “*c*” or in one combined two-hour course that includes curricula for identifying and reporting child abuse and dependent adult abuse.

e. The licensee shall maintain written documentation for five years after mandatory training as identified in paragraphs “*b*” to “*d*,” including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation.

f. The requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse shall be suspended if the board determines that suspension is in the public interest or that a person at the time of license renewal:

(1) Is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or the United States.

(2) Holds a current waiver by the board based on evidence of significant hardship in complying with training requirements, including an exemption of continuing education requirements or extension of time in which to fulfill requirements due to a physical or mental disability or illness as identified in 645—Chapter 328.

g. The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs “*b*” to “*f*.”

h. Persons licensed to practice as physician assistants shall keep their renewal licenses displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

326.9(3) Late renewal. If the renewal fee, continuing education report and renewal application are received within 30 days after the license expiration date, the late fee for failure to renew before expiration shall be charged.

326.9(4) When all requirements for license renewal are met, the licensee shall be sent a license renewal card by regular mail.

645—326.10(272C) Exemptions for inactive practitioners.

326.10(1) A licensee who is not engaged in practice in the state of Iowa may be granted an exemption of compliance and obtain a certificate of exemption upon written application to the board. The application shall contain a statement that the applicant will not engage in practice in the state of Iowa without first complying with all regulations governing reinstatement. The application for a certificate of exemption shall be submitted upon the form provided by the board. A licensee must hold a current license in good standing in order to apply for inactive status and must apply prior to the license expiration date.

326.10(2) Reinstatement of inactive practitioners. An inactive practitioner who has requested and been granted an exemption of compliance with the renewal requirements and who has obtained a certificate of exemption shall, prior to engaging in the practice of the profession in Iowa, satisfy the requirements for reinstatement as outlined in 645—328.9(148C).

326.10(3) A licensee shall renew at the scheduled renewal. A licensee whose license was reinstated within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew the license until the renewal date two years later.

326.10(4) A new licensee whose license is on inactive status during the initial license renewal time period and who reinstates the license before the first license expiration date will not be required to complete continuing education for that first license renewal time period only. One hundred hours of continuing education will be required for every renewal thereafter.

326.10(5) Verification of license(s) is required from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license became inactive.

326.10(6) Reinstatement of inactive license. The following chart illustrates the requirements for reinstatement based on the length of time a license has been inactive.

An applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:	30 days after expiration date up to 1 renewal	2 or more renewals
Submit written application for reinstatement to the board	Required	Required
Pay the current renewal fee	\$100	\$100
Pay the reinstatement fee	\$50	\$50
Submit verification(s) from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license became inactive	Required	Required
Complete continuing education requirements OR Submit a copy of NCCPA or successor agency certification	100 CME hours, of which at least 40 percent shall be in Category I OR Copy of NCCPA or successor agency certification	200 CME hours, of which at least 40 percent shall be in Category I OR Copy of NCCPA or successor agency certification
Total fees and continuing education hours required for reinstatement:	\$150 and 100 CME hours or NCCPA or successor agency certification	\$150 and 200 CME hours or NCCPA or successor agency certification

645—326.11(272C) Lapsed license.

326.11(1) If the renewal fee and continuing education report are received more than 30 days after the license renewal expiration date, the license is lapsed. An application for reinstatement accompanied by the reinstatement fee, the renewal fee(s) for each biennium the license is lapsed and the late fee for failure to renew before expiration must be filed with the board. The licensee may be subject to an audit of the licensee’s continuing education report.

326.11(2) Licensees who have not fulfilled the requirements for license renewal or for an exemption in the required time frame will have a lapsed license and shall not engage in practice as a physician assistant. Practicing without a license may be cause for disciplinary action.

326.11(3) In order to reinstate a lapsed license, licensees shall comply with all requirements for reinstatement as outlined in 645—328.5(148C).

326.11(4) After the reinstatement of a lapsed license, the licensee shall renew at the next scheduled renewal and complete the continuing education required for that biennium.

326.11(5) Verifications of license(s) are required from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license lapsed.

326.11(6) Reinstatement of a lapsed license. The following chart illustrates the requirements for reinstatement based on the length of time a license has lapsed.

An applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:	30 days after expiration date up to 1 renewal	2 or more renewals
Submit written application for reinstatement to the board	Required	Required
Pay the current renewal fee(s)	\$100	\$200
Pay the late fee	\$50	\$50
Pay the reinstatement fee	\$50	\$50
Submit verification(s) from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license lapsed	Required	Required
Complete continuing education requirements OR Submit a copy of NCCPA or successor agency certification	100 CME hours, of which at least 40 percent shall be in Category I OR Copy of NCCPA or successor agency certification	200 CME hours, of which at least 40 percent shall be in Category I OR Copy of NCCPA or successor agency certification
Total fees and continuing education hours required for reinstatement:	\$200 and 100 CME hours or NCCPA or successor agency certification	\$300 and 200 CME hours or NCCPA or successor agency certification

645—326.12(272C) License denial.

326.12(1) An applicant who has been denied licensure by the board may appeal the denial and request a hearing on the issues related to the licensure denial by serving a notice of appeal and request for hearing upon the board not more than 30 days following the date of mailing of the notification of licensure denial to the applicant. The request for hearing as outlined in these rules shall specifically describe the facts to be contested and determined at the hearing.

326.12(2) If an applicant who has been denied licensure by the board appeals the licensure denial and requests a hearing pursuant to this rule, the hearing and subsequent procedures shall be held pursuant to the process outlined in Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272C.

645—326.13(148C) Use of title. A physician assistant licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148C may use the words “physician assistant” after the person’s name or signify the same by the use of the letters “PA.”

645—326.14(148C) Address change. The physician assistant shall notify the board of any change in permanent address within 30 days of its occurrence.

645—326.15(148C) Student physician assistant.

326.15(1) Any person who is enrolled as a student in an approved program shall comply with the rules set forth in this chapter. A student is exempted from licensure requirements.

326.15(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, a student may perform medical services when they are rendered within the scope of an approved program.

645—326.16(148C) Recognition of an approved program. The board shall recognize a program for education and training of physician assistants if it is accredited by the American Medical Association’s Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation, by its successor, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs, or by its successor, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, or its successor.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 148C.2.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272C and chapters 147 and 148C as amended by 2003 Iowa Acts, House File 628.

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